

CAPTAIN LOUIS H. RODDIS, MEDICAL CORPS  
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED

Louis Harry Roddis was born in Cherokee County, Iowa, on February 16, 1886, son of the late Henry and Clara Eva (Schlinger) Roddis. He attended High School in Osakis, Minnesota, and received the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Minnesota. He was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Medical Reserve Corps on October 29, 1913, and on April 10, 1914, was commissioned Lieutenant (junior grade) in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Navy. He subsequently advanced in rank to Captain, Medical Corps, to date from July 1, 1940, and was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy on March 1, 1948.

From October 29, 1913 until April 1914 he had instruction at the Naval Medical School, Washington, D. C., and on April 20 reported for duty with the Marine Advance Base Expedition, Pacific Fleet. With the Fourth Marine Regiment he served at Mazatlan and Acapulco during the Mexican Campaign. From January 1915 to May 1917 he served at the Naval Hospital, Canacao, Philippine Islands, and on board the USS ELCANO, and upon his return to the United States became Senior Medical Officer at the Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina, serving in that capacity throughout the World War I period and until July 1919.

During the next three years he was at sea as Medical Officer, successively, of the USS VERMONT, USS SEATTLE and USS AROOSTOOK, and after several months' duty at Headquarters, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California, returned to duty with the Marines; this time assigned to the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, from March 1924 to December 1925. The next two years he spent at sea on board the USS ANTARES, then had a tour of duty in Washington, D. C., serving first at the Navy Recruiting Station; from October 1930 to January 1931 in the Planning and Publications Division of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department; and the last six months assigned to the Naval Hospital.

After sea duty in the USS WEST VIRGINIA, operating with the Battle Fleet, from June 1931 to June 1933, he returned to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for four years' duty in the Publications Division and as Editor of the Naval Medical Bulletin. In 1937 he also served as a member of the Board of Internal Medicine. Reporting in June 1937 as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, T.H., he remained there a year, then became Commanding Officer of the Hospital Corps School, Naval Hospital, San Diego.

In March 1941 he again returned to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, where he served as Officer in Charge of the Publications Division and Editor of the Naval Medical Bulletin, with additional duty as Liaison Officer between the Bureau and the Incentive Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Navy

during the early period of World War II. On August 31, 1942, he was ordered to the Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island, where he was Senior Medical Officer until January 1944. On March 4 of that year he joined the USS RELIEF, hospital ship of the Pacific Fleet, participating in operations in the Marshall and Mariana Islands as her Senior Medical Officer. He received a Letter of Commendation, with Ribbon, from the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, as follows:

"For excellent service in the line of his profession while serving as Senior Medical Officer of the USS RELIEF from March 4, to September 9, 1944. His professional skill and devotion to duty contributed materially to the smooth and efficient functioning of the Medical Department. During Fleet concentrations he rendered invaluable consultation service and dealt with many medical problems both in disease prevention and evacuation of the sick and wounded. Under his direction during the capture of Saipan and Tinian, large numbers of serious casualties were embarked and transported, many directly from the beachheads..."

Returning to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Captain Roddis served again as Editor of the Naval Medical Bulletin, and also as Editor of the Official Naval Medical History of World War II. He was retired on March 1, 1948, but remained on active duty, transferring to the Naval Hospital, San Diego, California, for a special project. He was relieved of all active duty on June 30, 1950.

In addition to the Commendation Ribbon, Captain Roddis has the Mexican Service Medal; the World War I Victory Medal; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three operation stars; World War II Victory Medal;

X-Ray his professional specialty, Captain Roddis is the author of "A Short History of Nautical Medicine," "Lives of the Surgeons General, U. S. Navy," and a number of articles on naval history, medical history and pharmaceutical history. He has published biographies of Edwar Jenner, the discoverer of smallpox vaccination, and William Withering who introduced digitalis into medical use. He is the recipient of the Sir Henry Wellcome Prize (Gold Medal and \$500.) for Military Medicine in 1943. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member of the American Medical Association; American Pharmaceutical Association and Association of the Military Surgeons of the United States; and a licentiate of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In 1950 Dr. Roddis published a biography, "James Lind - Founder of Nautical Medicine." In 1956 he published a book on

Minnesota History entitled "The Indian Wars of Minnesota," that was selected by a national review column as one of the twelve best Western books published that year. In 1957 he received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the University of Minnesota for distinction in medical history, medical administration and as a medical editor and scientist. This award was made in ceremonies in the new Mayo Memorial Auditorium in Minneapolis on June 14, 1957.

Also an ardent amateur botanist, he is a member of the American Society of Plant Physiologists, and is author of many articles on botany and botanical history, as well as Minnesota History.

He is a life member of the Minnesota Historical Society, and a member of the Naval Historical Foundation; the U. S. Naval Institute; Theta Psi Fraternity; and the Army-Navy Club, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Roddis was married to Miss Winifred Emily Stiles of St. Paul, Minnesota, at Manila, P. I., in 1916, and has two sons, Captain Louis H. Roddis, Jr., USNR, and Richard S. L. Roddis. The Roddis residence is 4420 Braeburn Road, San Diego, California.

DD - 10-19-69

San Diego.

Buried - Ft. Rosacrans -